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Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"Sir, the allegation made in the question is a fact; so, when the information is received, will the hon. Member be pleased to see that this state of affairs is put an end to?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"Yes, if necessary."

Depressed Classes

Aid to the Adi-Dravidas in Vishnuvakkam village.

* 573 *Q.*—Rao Sahib V. Dharmalingam Pillai: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is true that the dwelling houses in the Cheri of Vishnuvakkam village No. 115 of Tiruvallur taluk are submerged in water every year in the rainy season; and

(*b*) what action the Government propose to take to safeguard the lives and huts of the Adi-Dravidas living there?

A.—(*a*) No. On occasions when the tank near the cheri surpluses, some water gets into the streets of the cheri.

(*b*) The Government are informed that the lives of the Adi-Dravidas are in no danger; but the Commissioner of Labour will be asked to see if arrangements can be made to improve the conditions.

Factories

Report by the Commissioner of Labour on the condition of labour prevailing in the beedi factories of Madras.

* 574 *Q.*—Mr. V. T. Arasu: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the late Commissioner of Labour, Mr. Grey, has submitted to Government a report on labour conditions in the beedi factories in the city of Madras; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place it on the table of the House?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government are unable to place the report on the table of the House.

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—"I should like to know from the hon. the Home Member why the Government consider this report confidential?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"Government will have to consider this report along with the Report of the Whitley Commission and until they do so, it is not possible for the Government to place the former on the table of the House."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—"In view of the fact that notice has been given of a Bill to regulate the conditions of labour in beedi factories, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to place this report on the table?

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"No, Sir."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—With reference to the answer to clause (b) of the question, may I know whether the inability to place the report on the table is due to physical reason or to sentiment?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"As I have already said, this report has to be considered along with the Whitley Commission Report, and I may say that my hon. Frined Mr. Arasu's Bill is causing a lot of uneasiness to Muhammadan beedi merchants who came and saw me last week and made representations to the effect that the Bill would bring a lot of starvation among the poor Muhammadans. Therefore, I must take some time and consider the question carefully before I can place the report on the table of the House."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Is it on account of the representations made to the hon. the Home Member that he finds it unable to publish this report?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"No, Sir; I have already answered this question."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Are we to understand, Sir, that the hon. the Home Member does not agree with the conclusions and the observations of the Royal Commission on this question of labourers in the beedi factories?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I have said no such thing. All that I said was that I would have to look into both sides of the question carefully."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know what reasons led the Government to institute this enquiry?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I think the 29 Madras Youth League brought certain matters to the notice of the Government and we then called for a report from the Labour Commissioner. That report is confidential, and we thought that we might consider it along with the Whitley Commission Report."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know whether any opportunity will be given to the 29 Madras Youth League to support or controvert the remarks made in that report of Mr. Grey?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—'No, Sir."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Was not Mr. Grey directed to submit a report to the Government on the working of the beedi factories as a reply to the allegations made in the report of the 29 Madras Youth League?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I have already answered that."

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Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" May I know if the report contains very damaging statements about the working of these beedi factories?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—" I cannot answer that question off-hand."

General

Order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, against the Secretaries of the Zamindari Ryots' Conference.

* 575 *Q.*—Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that prohibitory orders were issued on the Secretaries of the Reception Committee of the Zamindari Ryots' Conference (District and Provincial) that was held at Venkatagiri in Nellore district on the 8th and 9th September 1931;

(*b*) whether he will place on the table a copy of the order of the Sub-Collector as also a written statement filed in reply to the prohibitory orders;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Reception Committee, Mr. Perumal Naidu, an ex-M.L.A., as also Mr. Biswanath Das, an ex-M.L.C., interviewed the Sub-Collector and Magistrate of Gudur regarding prohibitory orders issued under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that admission to this Conference was regulated by tickets both for the delegates and visitors; and

(*e*) whether the Government have ascertained from the Police and the Sub-Collector the reasons for their apprehension of a breach of peace?

A.—(*a*) An order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, was served on K. Kalyana Rao and K. Venkatarama Rao of whom the former was advertised to be the Secretary of the Reception Committee of the Zamindari Ryots' Conference proposed to be held on the 8th and 9th September 1931.

(*b*) Copies [a] of the order of the Joint Magistrate, Gudur, and the petition filed by the parties concerned in reply to it are placed on the table.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) It is understood that it was proposed to regulate admission for delegates and visitors by ticket.

(*e*) The reasons for the apprehension of a breach of the peace are explained in the order of the Joint Magistrate, Gudur.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether it is the intention of the Government to prevent meetings wherein it might be anticipated that some speeches might be resented by the persons concerned in holding the meeting?"

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[a] Printed as Appendix IV on pages 585—588 infra.